




STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
ANDREW JACKSON BUILDING, 15TH FLOOR
500 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37243

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2007

TO: Independent Support Coordinators and Case Managers
Residential Provider Agencies

CC: Kathleen Clinton, John Craven, and C.J. McMorran

FROM: Stephen H. Norris, Deputy Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Termination of DMRS Wrap-Around Benefits for Prescription Drugs

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The Division of Mental Retardation Services has been state-funding wrap-around benefits for coverage of prescription drugs such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates that are not covered by TennCare as well as drugs and drug co-payments not covered by Medicare Part D (see attached memo). These state-funded drug wrap-around benefits will end **June 30, 2007**. When the drug wrap-around benefits are terminated June 30, 2007, the service recipient will be responsible for the cost of any medications not covered by Medicare or TennCare.

The drug wrap-around benefits have been extended through June 30, 2007, to allow a 90-day transition period during which the service recipient's physician can prescribe alternatives to the benzodiazepines and barbiturates (see list below) or other drugs not covered by Medicare Part D or TennCare, if the physician believes that it is safe and medically appropriate to do so. If the physician is unwilling to prescribe alternative drug therapies, the service recipient will be responsible for the cost of any medications not covered by Medicare or TennCare.

Examples of common benzodiazepines

Alprazolam (Xanax)	Flurazepam (Dalmane)
Chlordiazepoxide (Librium)	Lorazepam (Ativan)
Clonazepam (Klonopin)	Oxazepam
Clorazepate (Tranxene)	Quazepam (Doral)
Diazepam (Valium/Diastat)	Temazepam (Restoril)
Estazolam (ProSom)	Triazolam (Halcion)

Example of barbiturates

Phenobarbital

If you have a service recipient who has been receiving drugs funded through the state-funded drug wrap-around benefits, please contact the service recipient's physician to determine if the physician will prescribe alternative drugs.

SHN:wlm

cc: Fred Hix
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